

The Raleigh Arts Commission, established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

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Picturing the Fantastic

Leah Palmer Preiss &
Tisha Edwards Weddington

June 4 - July 27, 2009



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Opening Reception
Thursday, June 4, 5-7 p.m.

Picturing the Fantastic captures the wide and varied imagination of each artist, manifested through paint and paper, collage and canvas. Tisha Edwards Weddington's portraits of made-up creatures and many-armed people evoke a dream world with hints of Asia, bits of the circus, and echoes of a fanciful menagerie. Leah Palmer Preiss' work, often in miniature, draws from layers of antique texts and maps, combined with exquisitely detailed characters and situations that have "collided" in the artist's mind.

Expanding upon these visions are the installations located in the second-floor cases where each artist showcases the images and objects that inspire their art. These found bits and pieces inform their art making, and in turn, can inform your experience with their work.

-Sarah Blackmon
Block Gallery Coordinator



BlockGallery

Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach since 1984.

Tisha Edwards Weddington

I paint images of beauty and strangeness coupled with a surreal sense of the provocative. With this sensibility what I want most is to impart a sense of wonder to the viewer. Within these placid individuals with contorted, combined and twisted bodies, there is the reality of surprise. It is this unexpected duality of nature that I express in visions of imagined landscapes of human and animal forms.

My work is intuitive. I do not dwell on the placement of things, I let them find their own way within the painting. Working from my imagination, I enjoy painting curious images that co-mingle man and beast. These images are meant to be comical, beautiful, and kinetic but concurrently always hold the darker side of nature. Following my intuition, I seek a balance and what this duplicity means within my work. I like to rely on the viewer to interpret the imagery, thereby providing both the challenge and opportunity to each individual to translate my visual language from their own unique perspective.



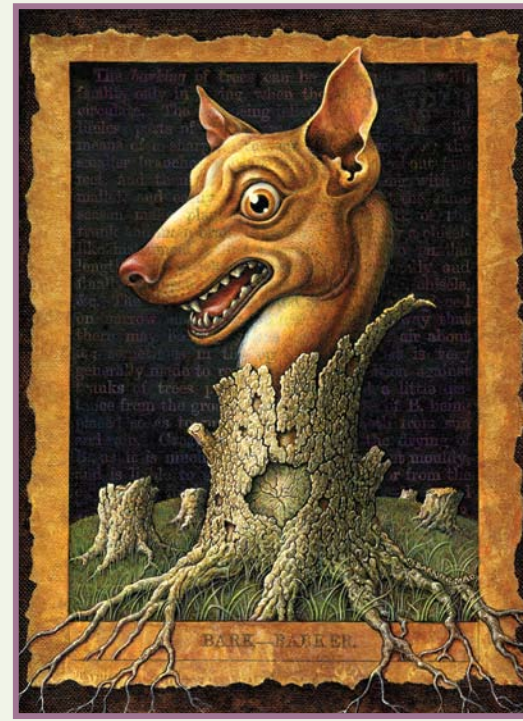
Tisha Edwards Weddington received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and attended the North Carolina Schools of the Arts for her latter years of high school. She also attended intensive arts programs at Brevard University and Penland School of Arts. Tisha is currently represented at Brunner Gallery in Louisiana as well as locally by Gallery C. She was named Artist in Residence at Artspace in 2000 and one of the "Top Ten Artists to Watch" in 2001. Tisha has exhibited at the Durham Arts Guild and the Mims Gallery in Rocky Mount. Her work is in numerous private collections throughout the country including the Stevens Center Performing Arts Theater in Winston-Salem, NC.

Tisha Edwards Weddington • tfortisha@mac.com • www.tishaedwards.com

| Title and Date of Work | Dimensions (in inches) / Medium | Price |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Birds & Ballgowns: Coral</i> , 2005 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Birds & Ballgowns: Dandelion</i> , 2006 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Birds & Ballgowns: Seaweed</i> , 2006 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Birdwatcher: Inactive</i> , 2005 | 36 x 24, oil on canvas | \$1100 |
| <i>Business as Usual</i> , 2005 | 18 x 36, oil on canvas | \$ 975 |
| <i>Busker</i> , 2009 | 30 x 24, oil on canvas | \$ 950 |
| <i>Cage Bird: Torikago</i> , 2009 | 30 x 24, oil on canvas | \$1200 |
| <i>Cocks & Kimonos: Lantern</i> , 2009 | 24 x 18, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Dog & Pony Show: Boneshaker</i> , 2009 | 20 x 16, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Dog & Pony Show: Slackline</i> , 2009 | 20 x 16, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Dog & Pony Show: Supersonic</i> , 2009 | 20 x 16, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Fauna</i> , 2009 | 36 x 36, oil on canvas | \$1650 |
| <i>Gale</i> , 2009 | 40 x 20, oil on canvas | \$1750 |
| <i>Hare in the Moon</i> , 2007 | 30 x 24, oil on canvas | \$1100 |
| <i>Head to Head</i> , 2009 | 17 x 11, ink on vellum | \$ 450 |
| <i>Hens Harrier</i> , 2009 | 24 x 48, oil on canvas | \$1300 |
| <i>Impossible Bottle</i> , 2009 | 40 x 30, oil on canvas | \$1750 |
| <i>Meditation</i> , 2002 | 30 x 20, oil on canvas | \$ 975 |
| <i>Metamorphosis: Equus/Lepus</i> , 2009 | 48 x 48, oil on canvas | \$1950 |
| <i>Peaben</i> , 2009 | 40 x 60, oil on canvas | \$2500 |
| <i>Pearls Before Swine</i> , 2009 | 17 x 11, ink on vellum | \$ 450 |
| <i>Rabbits & Jackets: Poppy</i> , 2007 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Rabbits & Jackets: Cherry Blossom</i> , 2007 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Rabbits & Jackets: Flytrap</i> , 2007 | 16 x 12, oil on canvas | \$ 650 |
| <i>Rabbit Test</i> , 2005 | 48 x 36, oil on canvas | \$1400 |
| <i>To the 9's</i> , 2007 | 36 x 24, oil on canvas | \$1100 |
| <i>Winter Bird: Yuki-Tori</i> , 2009 | 30 x 24, oil on canvas | \$1200 |



Tisha Edwards Weddington • *Dog and Pony Show: Bone Shaker* (left), *SIB* (right)



Leah Palmer Preiss • *Birdland* (left) and *Barking of Trees* (right)

Leah Palmer Preiss

My brain likes “seeing things.” For as long as I can remember I've entertained myself by letting words, art, nature, music, science and history bounce around in my head and randomly collide, striking all sorts of little image-sparks. Most of these odd, fleeting visions don't even make it as far as my sketch-book. But I do capture some, and lately a few of them have insisted on becoming paintings.

To recreate the effect of mental “background conversation,” I collage copied bits of old maps and texts onto canvas. Then I apply multiple layers of acrylics, often with brushes as small as 18 x 0. Yes, it takes a lot of time to paint all those hairline strokes! (That's one reason many of my pieces are tiny. I call them mAniatures.) After years illustrating other people's ideas, it's a delight to let some of my own curious visions come out to play!



Leah Palmer Preiss began working as a freelance illustrator and calligrapher while studying for her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Smith College. Her art has appeared in a wide variety of books and magazines and she has received honors for her illustrations from the Society of Illustrators, *Print Magazine*, and *Spectrum: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*.

Recently Leah has begun to focus more on personal pieces, exhibiting these new works in area venues including Visual Art Exchange, Cameron Village Library, and the Clayton Center.

Leah Palmer Preiss • curiouser@mindspring.com • www.leahpalmerpreiss.com

| Title and Date of Work | Dimensions (in inches) / Medium* | Price |
|--|---|-------|
| <i>Birdland</i> , 2008 | 8 x 10, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$600 |
| <i>Darwin</i> , 2007 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Fallen</i> , 2008 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text on canvas | \$450 |
| <i>Fireside Cat</i> , 2005 | 11 x 18, polymer clay, acrylic, collage & found objects on canvas | \$650 |
| <i>Freelancer</i> , 2008 | 10 x 10, acrylic on printed map on canvas | \$750 |
| <i>Fructus</i> , 2007 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$450 |
| <i>Geode</i> , 2005 | 9 x 12, polymer clay, acrylic, collage & found objects on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Last Ride</i> , 2008 | 12 x 16, acrylic on printed text on canvas | \$850 |
| <i>Lungfish</i> , 2008 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$450 |
| <i>Memory Bank</i> , 2007 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$450 |
| <i>Microcosmos: Flea Circus</i> , 2008 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & map on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Peace on Earth</i> , 2005 | 14 x 11, polymer clay, acrylic, collage & found objects on canvas | \$600 |
| <i>Pickleface</i> , 2008 | 4 x 4, acrylic on printed text on canvas | \$150 |
| <i>Running Out of Ink</i> , 2005 | 9 x 12, polymer clay, acrylic, collage & found objects on canvas | NFS |
| <i>Running Slowly</i> , 2009 | 5 x 4, acrylic on printed text & map on canvas | \$125 |
| <i>Secluded Habits</i> , 2007 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Shellbound</i> , 2009 | 12 x 12, acrylic on printed text & star map on canvas | \$750 |
| <i>Specimin: Darwin</i> , 2007 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text & images on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Sweet and Sour</i> , 2008 | 5 x 4, acrylic on printed text on canvas | \$500 |
| <i>Thorny</i> , 2008 | 6 x 6, acrylic on printed text on canvas | \$450 |
| <i>The Barking of Trees</i> , 2009 | 12 x 9, acrylic on printed text | \$450 |
| <i>Victor's Victim</i> , 2009 | 7 x 3.5, acrylic on printed text on Victor brand rat trap | \$175 |
| <i>Voracious</i> , 2005 | 9 x 12, acrylic on printed text on canvas | NFS |

*Maps, images, and text scanned from 19th century sources except *Freelancer*, scanned from an antique reproduction map, *Picklace* and *Sweet & Sour*, scanned from a 1915 source, and *Last Ride*, scanned from a 1943 dictionary definition of "surge."



Proudly celebrating 25 years showcasing local art, the Block Gallery has introduced hundreds of artists to area residents and visitors since the inception of the program in 1984. Managed by the Raleigh Arts Commission, the gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor community leader Miriam Preston Block. Located in downtown Raleigh at 222 West Hargett Street, the gallery is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Gallery closed on city holidays.)

Gallery information, dates and times are subject to change.

Staff

June Guralnick
Executive Director

Belva Parker
Arts Program Coordinator

Carol Mallette
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Blackmon
Block Gallery Coordinator

Marie Smith
Database Assistant

Block Gallery 2009

Exhibitions from the Edge: *Explorations of Place and Home*

Reflections on Home, February 5 - March 23, 2009

Artists: Luke Miller Buchanan, Mary Shannon Johnstone, Shaun Richards

Guest Curator: Lia Newman

Opening reception featuring performance by Starmount: Thursday, February 5, 5-7 p.m.

Southern Vernacular, April 2 - May 18, 2009

Artist: Clifton Dowell

North Carolina Life and Language Project, North Carolina State University

Opening reception honoring Piedmont Laureate Jaki Shelton Green: Thursday, April 2, 5-7 p.m.

Picturing the Fantastic, June 4 - July 27, 2009

Artists: Tisha Edwards, Leah Palmer Preiss

Opening reception: Thursday, June 4, 5-7 p.m.

Translucence, August 6 - September 21, 2009

Artists: Melissa Katherine, Ron Ward

Opening reception: Thursday, August 6, 5-7 p.m.

Retrospective 25, October 1 - November 16, 2009

Celebrating 25 years of art in the Municipal Building!

Opening reception: Thursday, October 1, 5-7 p.m.

National Arts Program, December 3, 2009 - January 11, 2010

Showcasing artwork by city of Raleigh and Wake County employees and their families in partnership with United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County.

Opening reception featuring live music: Thursday, December 3, 5-7 p.m.

